

Remarks.**Allowable subject matter.**

The Examiner has objected to claim 15 because of the phrase “. An apparatus as set forth in claim”.

Accordingly, Applicants have removed the aforementioned phrase so that as previously indicated by the Examiner, claims 15 and 16 are allowable.

Claim rejections under 35 USC103

Claims 1-14 have been rejected over various references.

An essential and very important feature of the present invention is the provision of dryer shell in which the transfer of heat from the inside to the outside of the shell maximizes **uniformity** of the transfer of thermal energy in the cross machine direction and minimizing the transfer of thermal energy through the dryer shell from the inner to the outer surface.

In the prior art, turbulator bars are provided in order to break up the layer of condensate that would otherwise build up within the shell thus insulating the heat of the steam within the shell. Such break up of the condensate layer **maximizes** the flow of heat from the steam through the shell.

However, in the present invention, rather than **maximize** the flow of heat, the opposite condition is being sought in order to **increase** or maximize the **uniformity** in a cross machine direction of such heat flow. The specific number of bars is provided in order to **minimize** flow of heat from the steam through the shell so that the **uniformity**, in a cross machine direction, of the flow of heat through the shell is increased or **maximized**. It is an objective of the present invention, as claimed, to have the same amount of heat flow through the shell all the way along the shell in a cross machine direction so that the web will be equally dried in a cross machine direction. Amended claim 1 is **not** claiming maximizing the heat flow but rather **maximizing the uniformity** of such heat flow in a cross machine direction. This is achieved by decreasing or **reducing** such heat flow from the steam through the condensate layer to a **minimum**.

None of the cited references give even a hint concerning the aforementioned surprising discovery disclosed in the present application. Furthermore, none of the cited references teach a formula for achieving such surprising discovery.

Applicants have amended claim 1 and 12 to emphasize the aforementioned important feature of the subject invention.

Applicant's representative the undersigned is presenting the claim amendments and remarks as a **proposed amendment** for consideration by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant's representative would appreciate an opportunity of an **interview** with the Examiner to discuss the surprising advantages and the non obviousness of the proposed claims over the art of record.

More specifically, Applicant's representative requests an interview prior to **January 10, 2008** in order to avoid an unnecessary extension.

Reexamination and reconsideration of claims 1-16 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David J. Archer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name.

David J. Archer

Reg. No. 31,076

Applicants representative.